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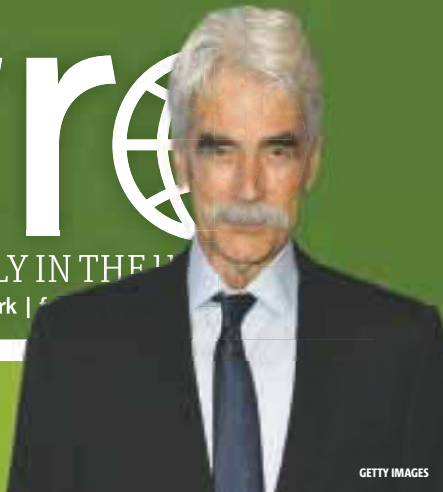
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A 'STAR' REBORN

Sam Elliott on the emotional toll of filming "A Star Is Born." 12



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Could a Knicks starting five feature KD, Kyrie and Zion next year? 16

Phoebe Robinson on the end of '2 Dope Queens.' 13

President Trump talked unity, but as expected pressed for southern border security during Tuesday's State of the Union. 2



**'I WILL GET
IT BUILT'**

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THINGS
TO
KNOW

Trump urges 'safe, lawful, secure' US immigration system

"Walls work and walls save lives," Trump said during Tuesday's State of the Union.

President Donald Trump vowed in his State of the Union speech on Tuesday to build a border wall that is a source of a deep partisan divide and said Democratic attempts at "ridiculous partisan investigations" could damage U.S. prosperity.

Trump spoke in the chamber of the House of Representatives facing political discord over his demands that Democrats end their opposition to funding for a border wall he says is needed to stem illegal immigration and smuggled drugs.

He called illegal immigration "an urgent national crisis," but stopped short of declaring a border emergency that would allow him to bypass Congress for wall funding. Instead, he urged Democrats and Republicans to find a compromise by a Feb. 15 deadline.

"In the past, most of the people in this room voted for a wall, but the proper wall never got built. I will get it built," Trump said in the highly anticipated speech before a joint session of the U.S. Congress, with his main Democratic adversary, new House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, watching over his shoulder.

Democrats call the wall a waste of money and ineffective.

At the same time, Trump warned that Democratic efforts to investigate his administration, along with the possibility of U.S. involvement in wars abroad, would endanger the U.S. economy.

"An economic miracle is taking place in the United States and the only thing that can stop it are foolish wars, politics, or ridiculous partisan investigations," he said.

His remarks came as Democrats who now control the House planned a series of probes into the Trump administration and a special prosecutor investigates Russian meddling into the 2016 presidential election and possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Moscow. Russia denies meddling and Trump has said there was no collusion.

Apart from lauding economic accomplishments — unemployment near a five-decade low and manufacturing job growth among them — Trump's speech was light on new initiatives to further stoke growth in an economy seen as losing momentum as it began 2019. A Reuters poll last month forecast economic growth would slow to 2.1 percent this year after likely averaging around 3 percent in 2018.



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TWO SIDES AT ODDS

Pelosi, who wore white like many Democratic lawmakers to celebrate the 100th anniversary of American women gaining the right to vote, applauded half-heartedly at times and frequently sat stony-faced through Trump's address.

She has shown no sign of budging from her opposition to Trump's wall-funding demand. That has led Trump to contemplate declaring

a national emergency, which he says would let him reallocate funding from elsewhere without congressional action.

Some of Trump's fellow conservatives have urged him not to declare an emergency. Such a move would "upend" the balance of powers between the White House and Congress, Republican Senator Susan Collins told reporters on Tuesday.

Trump used part of his speech to offer a spirit of

compromise, particularly in areas such as lowering the price of prescription drugs and funding a \$1 trillion upgrade in U.S. roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

But whether Trump and his opponents would follow through was far from clear, with both sides entrenched in long-held positions and girding for 2020 elections, reluctant to give the other side a political victory.

The nationally tele-

vised address gave Trump his biggest opportunity to date to explain why he believes a barrier is needed on the U.S. southern border with Mexico. The speech was delayed for a week because of the shutdown, which ended on Jan. 25.

"Simply put, walls work and walls save lives. So let's work together, compromise, and reach a deal that will truly make America safe," Trump said. **REUTERS**

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EVA KIS, FEATURES EDITOR

The biggest food trend of 2018 was CBD, with the cannabis derivative that mellows you out without the high turning up in lattes, cocktails and all kinds of food on menus across the city.

But the Department of Health has officially shut down the trend, banning CBD from bars and restaurants as a food additive. Why, especially with Gov. Cuomo making legalizing recreational marijuana a priority in 2019?

Pope says committed to stop sexual abuse of nuns

2 Pope Francis, whose papacy has been marked by efforts to quell a global crisis over sexual abuse of children by Catholic clergy, said on Tuesday he was committed to stopping the abuse of nuns by priests and bishops, some of whom had used the women as sex slaves. Francis made his comments on the plane returning from Abu Dhabi in response to a reporter's question about an article last week in a Vatican monthly magazine

about the abuse of nuns in the Catholic Church. Recently more nuns, encouraged by the #MeToo movement, have been coming forward to describe abuse at the hands of priests and bishops. Last year, the International Union of Superiors General, which represents more than 500,000 Catholic nuns, urged their members to report abuse. "It is true ... there have been priests and even bishops who have done this," Francis said.

O'Rourke to decide on presidential run this month

3 Beto O'Rourke, the Democratic former Texas congressman whose unexpectedly close but ultimately unsuccessful campaign for U.S. Senate generated buzz about a 2020 presidential bid, said on Tuesday he will decide by the end of the month whether to run. In a taped interview with Oprah Winfrey in New York, O'Rourke, 46, appeared to be leaning toward a 2020 campaign for the White

House but said he would make his decision after consulting his wife and three children. "I have been thinking about running for president," he said, prompting wild applause. "I'm so excited at the prospect of being able to play that role." The remarks, the closest O'Rourke has come to declaring his intentions for 2020, were made in a discussion open to the media at "Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations from Times Square."

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NEWS

'SNAP gap' may pose challenge for food pantries in the city

Though the government shutdown is over, its effect on New Yorkers and the food crisis here is not.



KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

Though the government shutdown ended on Jan. 25, its consequences are still being felt as the city faces a looming hunger crisis due to a "SNAP gap," according to a new report from the Food Bank for New York City.

The shutdown, which at 35 days was the longest in the country's history, affected hundreds of thousands of federal employees nationwide who were either furloughed or forced to work without paychecks. But it also affected those who use government services, like the 1.6

million New Yorkers who rely on SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps). Those SNAP recipients received their February benefits early because of the shutdown.

"While the government shutdown may be over, the worst is yet to come for the many New Yorkers who rely on SNAP to help put food on the table every day," Margarette Purvis, president and CEO of Food Bank for New York City, said in a statement.

"These benefits were issued two weeks early for most city recipients, creating a SNAP gap where recipients have to stretch their benefits over a much longer six-week time period," Purvis added. "The significant lapse between SNAP disbursements presents an unanticipated financial hurdle and disruption for those already



A furloughed Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employee looks at food at the Food Bank for NYC's mobile pantry at Barclays Center. GETTY IMAGES

dealing with food insecurity, and will place additional strain on emergency food providers across the five boroughs."

The SNAP gap will mean an increased demand of emergency food assistance in mid-February, and will be especially intense during the public school winter break, when children lose access to up to two free meals per day.

Research from November

found that food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the five boroughs are seeing a huge increase in those seeking food assistance. Sixty-six percent reported an increase in first-time visitors, 63 percent saw an increase in elderly visitors and 62 percent saw more families with children.

Because of the government shutdown, as federal employees turned to

food pantries, they were stretched even thinner.

"An open government does not mean immediate pay for all," the report reads. "The Emergency Food Network continues to serve those impacted by the shutdown, in addition to New Yorkers who struggled to afford food even before the shutdown began, but our community is shaken and deeply concerned for the security of our national response to hunger."

In the wake of the government shutdown and ahead of the anticipated SNAP gap, food pantries are highlighting their current struggles.

Nearly 50 percent of the city's Emergency Food Network operate on an annual budget of less than \$25,000, per the Food Bank report. While it's considered "best practice" for nonprofits to have six

months of operating cash on hand for emergencies, 76 percent of New York City food pantries and soup kitchens have only one month of cash or less on hand.

As food pantries struggle, they overwhelmingly consider the policy changes by the federal government to be a major threat to their operations.

"After serving through the shutdown and in preparation for the 'SNAP gap,' those threats — and their resulting challenges — have now been realized," the report reads. "In this moment of stretching this safety net to its limit, this survey has also identified that emergency food programs are not only operating with minimum budgets, but are living 'paycheck to paycheck' with little to no operational cash beyond the current month."

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CBD banned from city bars and restaurants

Without explanation, the DOH bans CBD from being added to food and drinks.



EVA KIS
eva.kis@metro.us

One of the hottest trends on the New York City food scene has been shut down by the Department of Health, which has banned all restaurants and bars from serving food and drinks made with CBD, a cannabis-derived product that's said to relax users and reduce pain without getting high.

"Restaurants in New York City are not permitted to add anything to food or drink that is not approved as safe to eat," said DOH spokeswoman Danielle De Souza. "The Health Department takes seriously its responsibility

to protect New Yorkers' health. Until cannabidiol (CBD) is deemed safe as a food additive, the Department is ordering restaurants not to offer products containing CBD."

According to De Souza, the Department of Health began banning CBD in food products starting in January. It is in the process of alerting restaurants about the CBD ban, though De Souza did not specify whether they've been given a general notice or if inspectors make them aware of the change in policy during their unannounced visits. To date, five restaurants have been ordered to stop using CBD in their products. The agency did not explain why the ban was enacted.

It's a puzzling move given that Gov. Andrew Cuomo has made legalizing recreational mari-

juana a top priority for his

"It's illegal to introduce drug ingredients like these into the food supply, or to market them as dietary supplements."

FDA Commissioner
Scott Gottlieb

2019 legislative agenda.

The Food & Drug Administration, which regulates both food and medicine, treats CBD as an active ingredient in an FDA-approved drug—last year, the agency allowed a single anti-seizure drug for epilepsy patients to market. "[I]t's illegal to introduce drug ingredients like these into the food supply, or to market them as dietary supplements,"

according to a statement from FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb.

As for selling CBD in non-food products, "Selling unapproved products with unsubstantiated therapeutic claims is not only a violation of the law, but also can put patients at risk, as these products have not been proven to be safe or effective," Gottlieb said. Despite this, the CBD business was worth an estimated \$600 million in 2018, which is expected to reach \$22 billion by 2022.

Medical marijuana dispensary Citiva, which just opened its first Brooklyn location across from the Barclays Center in January, also sells CBD products and welcomes the additional scrutiny to ensure patients' safety.

"While many who make hemp-derived CBD products are taking steps



Feelz by Chloe is a line of 25 CBD-infused treats from baked goods to bubble tea and even dog bones. LESLIE KIRCHHOFF

to ensure that their ingredients are safe and of high quality, we also suspect some don't," said Amy Holdener, director of communications for Citiva. "The result is CBD products that are unlikely to be effective and, worse, may pose a health issue."

"We believe CBD is a cannabinoid, like others, that should be tested and regulated to ensure it is safe for human consumption. We already have those processes in

place for THC products. Why not subject CBD to the same rigorous standards?"

This ban will have an immediate chilling effect on a trend that's been years in the making but definitely took off in 2018.

In New York, CBD started showing up in early 2017 as "cannabis oil" used to lace food at intimate private dinners like the NSFW club's Dankquet.

For more, go to metro.us.

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Doctors Urge Knee Pain Sufferers

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After Years Of Intense Study, NYC Medical Clinic Finally Reveals It’s Best “Treatment Formula” For Helping Knee Arthritis Sufferers... Especially When So Many Other Treatments Have Failed

NEW YORK CITY - If you are even remotely interested in discovering how the latest scientific discoveries can possibly help your knee pain... then this is going to be the most exciting information you ever read.

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This formula has reduced or even eliminated the pain in many. Some were scheduled for knee replacement surgery and felt good enough to cancel their surgery.

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Especially when they had gone to other doctors and tried so many other things.

So many had given up hope.

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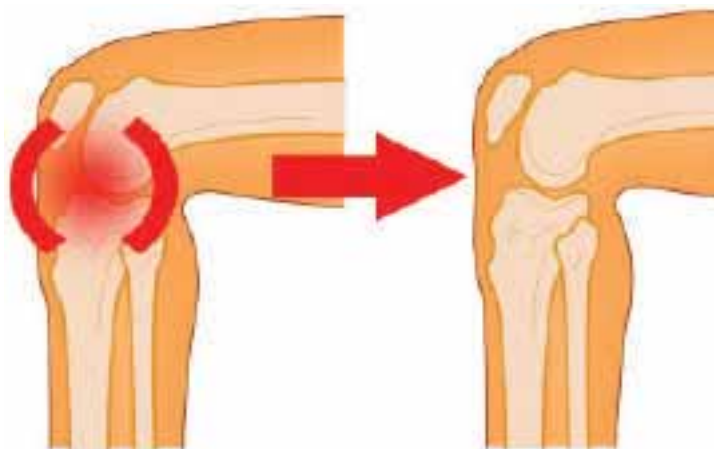
While I can’t give you the entire treatment formula here (there is not enough space and WAY too complicated) I can give you the basics. And more important... I can tell you what it might be able to do for YOU.

The first and most important part of the formula is: **PATIENT SELECTION.**

This means, *NYC Pain MD* has a detailed screening process to tell who is most likely to be helped by their treatments... and who is not.

If you qualify, you have the opportunity to move forward and experience the worldclass treatments that *NYC Pain MD* offers.

If you do not, *NYC Pain MD* will tell you what they think your best options are and help



NYC Pain MD “**Treatment Formula**” A protocol of advanced medical treatments that has already helped thousands.

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Once again, there is not enough space to go into detail about all these procedures... but here are some things you **MUST KNOW...**

Viscosupplementation is where a doctor introduces a gel-like medicine directly into the joint space. This helps to lubricate the joints often relieving some, most or even all of your pain. Results can last for 6 months to several years.

Many have had these treatments *without* good results. However, *NYC Pain MD* feels this is because doctors often do these “gel injections” without advanced imaging to guide them. Research shows they will often miss the joint. If the joint is missed... it is impossible for the treatment to work.

NYC Pain MD has spared no expense and used advanced imaging to guide the injections assuring the medicine gets into the joint. We frequently get results when this treatment was a failure done elsewhere.

The second thing you must know is... our treatment plans are custom made for every patient. And we have all these treatments

offered in the same place. Many times you will get the best results from multiple treatments. At *NYC Pain MD* your doctors will all be there and will all know each other and you and your case. They work together and give you the best treatments and care without you having to go anywhere else.

The ability to select the right patients and then have the potential to give them any or all of these treatments... with all the necessary medical technology... under one roof... has allowed *NYC Pain MD* to get better results than they thought possible.

Here’s What You Should Do Next

If you suffer with knee pain... and any of this made sense to you... *NYC Pain MD* would like to offer you a No-cost screening. That screening is the first step in our “Treatment Formula.”

You will get to see a doctor and ask any questions you have. Your doctor will take the first steps to see if you qualify for treatments and give you recommendations.

The best thing is... you will finally get direction. You will know what’s going on and what is your best course of action... step-by-step. The treatments will be explained in detail and you will breathe a big sigh of relief finally knowing what’s going on and what can or cannot be done.

There is so much we want to say to help you... but I’m out of space. Give us a call at **877-296-6310** and take the first step. That step is free without obligation.



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Public advocate candidates sit in a row at the special election's first public forum on Jan. 23.

GETTY IMAGES

Public advocate candidates set to debate tonight

A look at who is on the ballot for NYC ombudsman, who will be first in line to succeed the mayor.



WILL DRICKEY
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\$50K

Blake's planned housing reforms include expanding protection for seniors living in rent-controlled housing earning less than \$50,000 and paying more than a third of their income in rent to include seniors who make \$45,800 or less as well.

The special election for New York's Public Advocate is on Feb. 26, and already the crowded race has begun to empty out, with five of the 22 candidates running being disqualified by the New York City Board of Elections on Tuesday. On Wednesday, 10 of the 17 remaining candidate will get their first chance to spar over their respective platforms at a debate in Manhattan's CUNY-TV studio.

Hosted by NY 1, the debates will air on the NY 1 news channel and NYC-TV beginning at 7 p.m., and will be live-streamed on NY 1's Facebook page and website.

There will be a second debate before the special election, taking place on Feb. 20. Eligibility to participate in each debate is determined by whether the candidates have raised and spent a certain amount of money set by the Board of Elections. This means that the seven candidates who will not appear at Wednesday's debate will still have a chance to make their case two weeks later.

This special election is to fill the space left by former Public Advocate Letitia James, who became New York's attorney general last year. Whoever wins will only hold the title for a year, as a normal primary for the position will be held in 2020.

The 10 candidates appearing at Wednesday's

debate are mostly current or former members of the New York City Council: Rafael Espinal Jr., Ydani Rodriguez, Eric Ulrich and Jumaane Williams are all currently serving in the city government, while Melissa Mark-Viverito was the speaker of City Council from 2014 to 2017. Michael Blake, Ron Kim and Daniel O'Donnell are all members of the New York State Assembly, with journalist Nomiki Konst and lawyer Dawn Smalls being political newcomers.

Rafael Espinal Jr.:

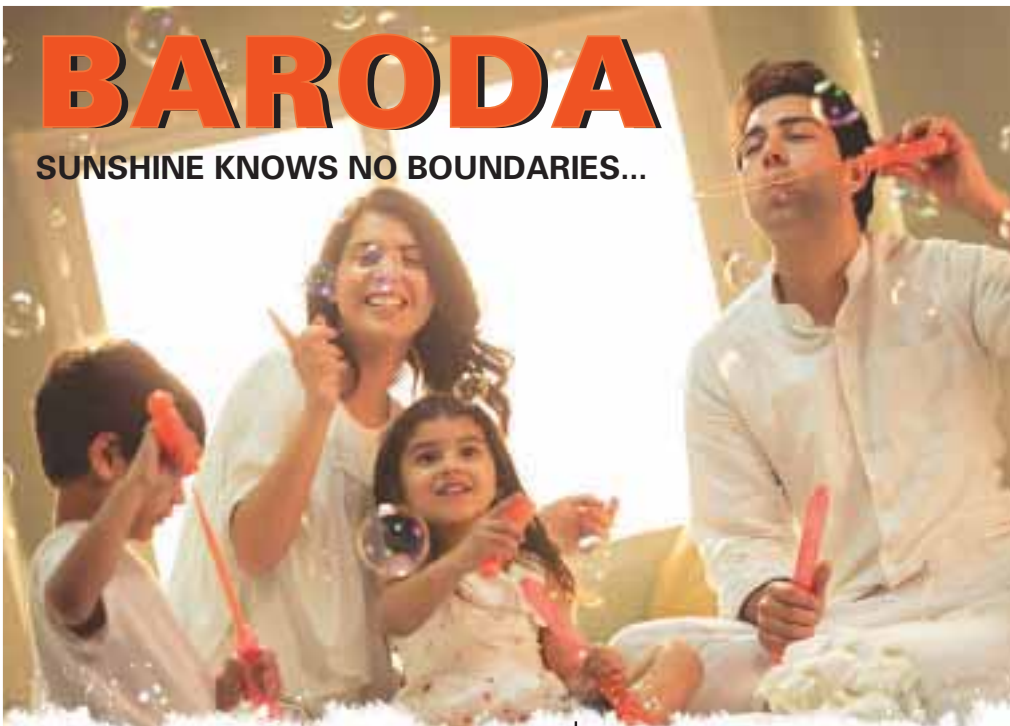
Calling himself "Bernie Sanders-esque," Espinal supports the Green New Deal, and claims that Gov. Andrew Cuomo is acting too slowly on it. He wants to pass legislation to mandate "green rooftops" for buildings in the city — either with gardens or solar panels. He also supports universal rent control and single-payer health care, and proposes to pay for MTA and NYCHA by enforcing a tax on stock sales that New York has not collected since 1981, which he reports will raise around \$11 billion per year.

Jumaane Williams:

"I have proudly been arrested while standing up against Donald Trump's aggressive deportation forces," Williams' campaign site reads.

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If elected, he will put forward legislation requiring 15 percent of all apartments in developments that receive city funding to be reserved for giving housing to the homeless. Williams has also voiced support for universal health care and universal rent control, and plans to both sue NYCHA and add it to the “worst landlords list” started by Letitia James during her tenure in the position.

Ydanis Rodriguez: Though he announced his candidacy for the position in December of last year, details about Rodriguez’s campaign platform are scarce. According to Pix 11, Rodriguez says his top priorities are schools, rent stabilization and small businesses.

Eric Ulrich: Hoping that the sheer number of left-leaning candidates will split Democratic votes enough to allow him to secure the position, Ulrich is the only member of the Republican party running for public advocate. He wants the position to be more independent from the mayor’s office, and is very insistent that he will “hold the mayor’s feet to the fire.”

Melissa Mark-Viverito: Viverito is the only candidate in the election using the old system of campaign financing rules, which capped donations at \$5,000, rather than the current limit of \$2,000. She intends to close Rikers Island, “increase access” to health care, fund career/technical education, tax legal marijuana to fund the MTA and keep New York in line with the Paris climate agreement of 2015.

Michael Blake: Blake believes that if city agencies improve, “the private sector will follow our lead.” His planned housing reforms include letting certain people “opt out” of being solicited by developers; a tax on homes sold within a year of being purchased; and expanding protection for seniors already living in rent-controlled housing earning less than \$50,000 and paying more than a third of their income in rent to include seniors who

make \$45,800 or less as well. Blake also wants to add more cameras to MTA stations, fund tech and health care job training, and appoint chief diversity officers for every city agency.

Ron Kim: With a slogan of “People over Corporations,” Kim wants to confiscate and cancel the \$35 billion in student debt held by banks in the city, end tax giveaways to large corporations like Amazon within five years and transition the city to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030.

Daniel O’Donnell: A former public defender, O’Donnell promises to require 15 percent of all new housing units to be devoted to housing the homeless, prevent any new AIDS infections by 2020, end all trash going to landfills by 2030 and cut the city’s greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

Nomiki Konst: An investigative journalist who has contributed to CBS, CNN and Fox News, Konst claims to be the only public advocate candidate not accepting contributions from real estate developers, corporations or lobbyists. Her platform includes raising the minimum wage to \$30 per hour by 2020, rent-stabilizing 80 percent of all of the apartments in the city, passing single-payer health care, making the subway free and canceling the \$3 billion in tax breaks city and state officials offered to Amazon.

Dawn Smalls: An attorney who has represented undocumented immigrants, victims of financial crime and voters facing intimidation, and formerly a regional political director for the 2008 Hillary Clinton primary campaign, Smalls vows to prevent landlord income discrimination, require developers to contribute to neighborhood infrastructure, and encourage mixed-income real estate development. Additionally, she promises to appoint “children’s advocates” to help homeless students cope with the school system, raise awareness of New York’s Health + Hospitals system and “ensure that New Yorkers have access to renewable energy.”



NYC public advocate candidate Melissa Mark-Viverito speaks during a public forum. GETTY IMAGES

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Sexual assault survivors billed illegally for rape kits

This marks the ninth such settlement in an ongoing statewide investigation into the illegal billing of sexual assault survivors.



KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
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GETTY IMAGES

A Bronx hospital found to be illegally billing sexual assault survivors for forensic rape examinations, or rape kits, will now have to implement a new written policy ensuring survivors do not receive such bills and also pay restitution to any wrongly billed survivors as part of a settlement announced by Attorney General Letitia James' office Tuesday.

Per state law, hospital services including a rape

exam provided to a sexual assault survivor should be "without charge," with the hospital instead billing the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) directly. Or, the survivor could voluntarily opt out and assign the costs to private insurance, but they must be informed about their options.

An investigation into BronxCare Health System found that between Jan. 10, 2016, and Dec. 26, 2017, BronxCare improperly billed 17 patients

for its hospital services, billed the insurers of 10 of these patients, and sent 12 of the bills to collection, according to the AG's office.

Separately, emergency room physicians sent bills to 13 of these patients and sent 12 of the bills to collection. These bills ranged from \$35 to \$1,957.

The investigation also found that BronxCare failed to advise patients of their billing options, as required by law.

"The trauma of sexual assault is more than enough for a survivor to bear. The secondary trauma of fighting an illegal bill for a forensic rape exam is unfathomable, and we will not allow it to continue," James said in a statement.

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Why do people go to Broadway shows and talk? My daughter and I were at show, women next to us keep talking. My daughter shh'd them and they got annoyed, saying, "Are you kidding me?" I paid over \$100 for each seat to see the show, not hear you talk.

—Nancy, Metro New York reader

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With the weather dipping down into the negative, the early morning struggle is real for dog owners all over. As you head out in the morning, you not only have to bundle yourself up a little more, but making sure your dog is warm should be a priority as well. It goes without saying, but dog winter gear is one of life's great joys. That's why we you, our trusty readers, to send in pictures of your dogs dressed to the nines in their best winter outfits! Send photos over to humble@metro.us and we will post the best ones here.



I hope you can show me off. Just staying warm. —Sky Bella the Pomeranian PROVIDED

Please remember to send your Humbles to humble@metro.us. These submissions can be acts of gratitude, positivity or kindness that you have seen throughout the day.

metro.us/horoscopes

- Aries** You'll be eager to make a change. Think big, but don't take on more than you can handle.
- Taurus** Make plans with someone special. Apply your skills to something you enjoy doing.
- Gemini** Put more effort into professional gains. Use your energy to make a change that will give you greater freedom.
- Cancer** Use your imagination and creative ability to get things done your way. You'll impress someone you work with or for.
- Leo** If you want things to happen, be prepared to put in time and labor. Only take on what will benefit you.
- Virgo** You don't have to go overboard to impress someone. A heartfelt dialogue will be all that's required when dealing with personal and professional partners.
- Libra** Gather as much information as possible before you disagree with someone. Changes can be made.
- Scorpio** Let your actions speak for you. A personal change can be made if you do the legwork.
- Sagittarius** Trust facts and rely on your experience. Someone will use manipulative tactics to talk you into something.
- Capricorn** Whatever you do, be secretive until your plans are in place. A change will do you good.
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LIFESTYLE

The acclaimed actors stars in "The Man Who Killed Hitler And Then The Bigfoot." EPIC PICTURES GROUP

Why Sam Elliott broke down after 'A Star Is Born'

in his eyes at the end of the take. It was just one of those things that gets born in the moment. The magical stuff."

Clearly leaving "A Star Is Born" was a complicated experience for Elliott because collaborating with Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga, who Elliott calls "two of the most powerful characters" he has ever worked with,

to shift gears. But, again, you get energized somehow. You just get up and go again."

Elliott made sure he approached "The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot" with all the seriousness and gusto of his previous projects, even though its budget was so tight that writer and director Robert Krzykowski basically had to beg, borrow and steal to make it.

"I think when I got over there everyone was taken aback that I took it all so serious," he admits. "I think a lot of guys on this crew thought it was a hoot. When I started doing it, people thought, 'What the f—k, man? This is not what I expected it to be!'"

"But Robert gave me every bit of confidence to do what I wanted to do. I knew where he wanted to go with it. He was interested in telling the truth. And that's always what I try to do. Because there's a goodness at the heart of this that I hope speaks to people."

But despite his self-diagnosed exhaustion, don't expect Sam Elliott to stop anytime soon. "The truth is that I'm lucky to be working. I'm working with good people. It's all good stuff. It's a lot of fun."

"The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot" hits select theaters, digital and on demand on Feb. 8.

"There's a goodness at the heart of this that I hope speaks to people."

was energizing, it also left him extremely drained.

"I felt pretty strong after I left 'A Star Is Born.' Because of the experience, being in their presence. I had the feeling that something special had just happened. When you watch Gaga on stage and doing her thing and you see Bradley doing what he's doing, and seeing him work as a director and he's clearly a brilliant filmmaker. I was definitely energized by that experience."

"But I was f—ing tired. I feel like I've been tired for the last two years. I went from 'The Ranch' to 'A Star Is Born' to this. I left 'A Star Is Born' on the Friday, started on this on the Monday. There was very little time and I had

The Oscar-nominated actor explains.



GREGORY WAKEMAN
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Sam Elliott is having quite the year.

The 74-year-old's performance in "A Star Is Born" has rightfully been acknowledged as one of the best of recent years, so much so that

he is the clear favorite for this year's Best Supporting Actor Academy Award. He is also a mainstay in "The Ranch" and consistently steals any other film or show he is a part of.

But while his gravelly voice, stoic demeanor and all powerful mustache would have you believe otherwise, Elliott is still a mere mortal.

So when Sam Elliott went straight from "A

Star Is Born" to the magnificently named "The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot" — which, rather than being a B-movie about these murders, is actually a deep and intimate character study about a lonely veteran — he is the first to admit he was very, very tired.

Ever the pro, though, Elliott used this exhaustion to make the emotional parts of "Bigfoot" even

more powerful, and at one point he even broke down unexpectedly.

"It wasn't scripted. I just touched his hand and somehow it just killed me. All of a sudden I just started weeping in the middle of f—ing nowhere," he tells Metro while laughing. "Everybody was like, 'What the f—k?'"

It clearly worked, though. "There was a runner with f—ing tears

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Phoebe Robinson talks the end of '2 Dope Queens'

Robinson's and co-host Jessica Williams' careers are just too "bananas."



ANDREW HUSBAND
drew.husband@metro.us

When the "2 Dope Queens" podcast's interview with Michelle Obama went live last November, co-hosts Phoebe Robinson and Jessica Williams also posted a "Farewell" note to their fans.

Nearly three months later, the podcast's HBO series is about to air its next (and final) batch of specials. Ahead of Friday night's premiere of "Fashion," which features special guest Lupita Nyong'o, Robinson spoke to Metro about the end of an era.

"I think we're really in a place where, individually, our careers are just bananas," she says. "This all happened in a way that we obviously couldn't have predicted. We had no idea what was going to happen when we started '2 Dope Queens' back in 2014. We just wanted to try something and see what stuck."

Stick it did, because "2 Dope Queens" was optioned by HBO for a series of specials that aired in February of last year. A year later, the next four episodes are about to drop.



"2 Dope Queens" is likely coming to an end. HBO

"The first batch of episodes really turned out so well, so I think Jess and I just thought, 'How about we have a little more fun this time?'" Robinson explains. "As much fun as we ended up having with the guests and everything, however, we were still aware of now wanting to blow this opportunity. When HBO came back and wanted us to do more episodes, that gave us an extra vote of confidence. We figured we had this. We knew what we were dealing with. So we decided to really be in the moment and have some more fun this time around. I think that really shows, especially in the first two episodes of the new season."

She's not wrong. From digging into fashion with Nyong'o to casting spells with "Harry Potter" star Daniel Radcliffe, the final season of is down for a good time.

"Everyone was such

good sports. They're really supportive," says Robinson. "They all knew what '2 Dope Queens' was because they'd watched it or listened to it, so I think they knew we were just going to have a good time. Me and Jess really had a ball this time. I was definitely down to be more physical with my comedy, too, just because it's hard for me to do all that while wearing heels. I'm like, 'What's funnier than me trying to move around in heels gracefully?' I can't."

As for the new specials spelling the absolute end of "2 Dope Queens," the comic is quick to note that nothing is set in stone.

"It's more like, we're keeping the door open," she explains. "But for now, we've just got to bring all the comedy and drama and elegance that we can to these final episodes. That's what we're trying to do."

"2 Dope Queens" returns to HBO on Friday at 11 p.m.

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Matthew Broderick on making death and grief funny in 'To Dust'

"To Dust" is a deeply personal for writer and director Shawn Snyder, who spent 10 years developing the darkly comic film, the catalyst of which was the death of his mother. Snyder tells Metro "To Dust" was a "pilgrimage for his own grief," especially since he finds it offensive that so many people try to confine and define this period of mourning.

At the same time, he also wanted to "probe and explore the ancient guide posts to grief" through the film, which revolves around a recently widowed Hasidic cantor Shmuel (Geza Rohrig) haunted by the image of his decomposing wife teaming up with a bumbling college professor Albert (Matthew Broderick) and a dead pig to help him process the stringent religious timeline for mourning.

Broderick was immediately entranced by "To Dust." "I just enjoyed reading it. It was so well

written and a good story. I didn't expect what happened to happen. It is also a subject that people don't often dramatize. It is something that is a little scary, but it is handled so well. And I thought it was funny."



But "To Dust" wouldn't work if the dynamic between Shmuel and Albert wasn't both heartfelt as well as peppered with comedy. Snyder admits that he ambitiously wanted the actors to evoke Abbott & Costello. Which was quite the request, considering that, as Broderick points out, the co-

medic icons honed their dynamic over 20 years, and there wasn't even a rehearsal period.

Despite this constraint, Rohrig and Broderick are genuinely hilarious whenever they're together. So how did they create this dynamic?

"I found Matthew to be an incredibly humble person," insists Rohrig. "He is a natural actor, with technique and experience. But we just jumped into it. Because we are different enough to sort of play out in real time rather than trying to create some difference. It worked on its own."

Broderick stresses they also had a lot in common, which helped the dynamic. "I never looked at Geza and thought, 'What the hell is he doing?' It easily felt like we were in the same story. We all instinctively knew what we were doing."

"To Dust" opens at New York City's Village East on Feb. 8.
GREGORY WAKEMAN

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SPORTS

A bright future could be on the other side of this horrendous season.



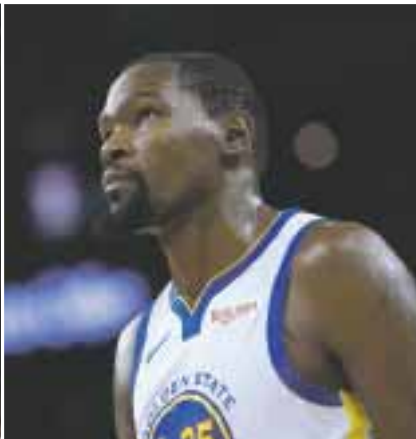
JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

It has to get worse in order for it to get better. At least, that rule applies to the New York Knicks.

With the NBA's worst record just the latest debacle in the last 20 years that have become the James Dolan ownership, things got even drearier around Madison Square Garden when the Knicks opted to trade Kristaps Porzingis to the Dallas Mavericks.

The return was decent enough, headlined by Dennis Smith Jr. and future first-round draft picks. Smith, a second-

Projecting Knicks' starting 5 next year



Could the Knicks feature a starting lineup with Zion Williamson (left), Kevin Durant (center) and Kyrie Irving (right) next season? GETTY IMAGES

year guard out of NC State, was on the Knicks' radar during the 2017 draft, though the team opted to pick the arduous project that has become Frank Ntilikina.

Also coming from Dallas, Wesley Matthews isn't expected to stay a Knick for long while DeAndre Jordan's future with the team is just as much in

the air.

So begins the rest of the season, which couldn't possibly be worse than the first four months, right?

No, seriously, I'm asking you because I don't think it can possibly get any worse.

As first-year head coach David Fizdale and his rag-tag group of Knicks

play out the remainder of their 2018-19 season, there is somehow reason for sheer optimism, even if many consider it to be a long shot.

The Knicks are on the cusp of getting better and there seem to be plenty of avenues in order for them to do so.

As odds-on favorites for the No. 1 overall pick in the 2019 draft, the Knicks will be getting a big-time young talent in the likes of Zion Williamson or RJ Barrett, both young standouts from Duke.

The Porzingis trade seemingly solidified that the Knicks would keep the pick, seeing as the Latvian was considered by many to be the key piece in a prospective deal for New Orleans Pelicans superstar Anthony Davis.

Yet the Knicks' links to the 25-year-old star center, who requested a trade from the Pelicans toward the end of January, persist. As he's set to become a free agent in the summer of 2020, Davis has a huge say on where he will be traded. The promise of signing a contract extension with the right trade partner will maximize the Pelicans' return for him.

While the Los Angeles Lakers are overwhelmingly tabbed to pull off a deal for "The Brow" before Thursday's trade deadline, ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski listed the Knicks among the four teams that Davis would sign an extension with.

The problem is the Knicks don't have the same kind of assets the Lakers could offer New Orleans, but the No. 1

pick and the possibility of Williamson in New Orleans could pique the Pelicans' interest. It would be a huge gamble to make that deal, though, as we won't find out how the draft lottery plays long after the trade deadline.

So put the Knicks' chances of getting Davis as highly unlikely.

Luckily for them, they won't be short of superstar options this offseason as New York is poised to have around \$71 million in cap space available. That's enough for two max-salary contracts that will bring in premier talent the organization hasn't seen in quite some time.

As it stands, the Knicks are favored to sign Golden State Warriors star and two-time NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant as the two have reportedly been linked since last summer.

The nine-time All-Star is averaging 27.5 points per game this season. Since 1961, only four Knicks have averaged that many points per game.

Bringing on Durant would obviously bring some legitimacy to the long-time dysfunctional franchise, and if the Knicks are smart, they'll ask Durant which other free agents he'll want to play with and do everything in their power to get them.

That could very well be Boston Celtics point guard Kyrie Irving, who has reneged on the notion that he'll sign long-term with the C's. Growing up in West Orange, N.J., Irving was just 15 miles from Madison Square Garden and admitted that he's been "impressed

with how the Knicks have positioned themselves after the Porzingis deal.

Irving would supply the Knicks with their best point guard since Walt Frazier and ensure Durant has a second playmaker to dominate alongside.

The prospect of such moves has coaxed many to ask why the Knicks would appeal to big-name free agents given the franchise's track record over the past 20 years under Dolan.

Sure, the team may be dysfunctional, but the idea of bringing an NBA title back to one of the epicenters of the basketball world would make any star man of said team immortal in the Big Apple. Just ask the 1973 Knicks or Mark Messier and the 1994 Rangers.

And yes, playing every night at Madison Square Garden with a refueled, rabid fan base would be more than enough of a pull.

Should this all happen, the Knicks would suddenly have two superstars to go with a young, developing team that could make plenty of noise in the Eastern Conference. Should they, in fact, win the No. 1 pick, then suddenly New York's starting 5 would look incredibly imposing on paper, at least.

KNICKS 2019-20 PROJECTED STARTING 5

PG- KYRIE IRVING

SG- DENNIS SMITH JR.

SF- KEVIN DURANT

PF- ZION WILLIAMSON

C- DEANDRE JORDAN



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Judge wants Harper on Yanks?

It may be wishful thinking, but New York Yankees slugger Aaron Judge is airing on the side of caution when it comes to any possible pursuit of free-agent megastar Bryce Harper.

In a TMZ interview on Monday, Judge made it known that he wouldn't mind seeing the former Washington National patrolling the outfield at Yankee Stadium come springtime.

"Any time you can add an MVP to a team, it's going to make them better... it all depends on where he wants to go," Judge said.

Both Judge and Harper play right field, which would force one of them to make the move to center.

"Where he wants to play, wherever he wants to play, we'll make it work," he added.

The Yankees outfield is already experiencing a logjam considering the amount of talent it has ahead of the 2019 season. Judge is already backed up by every-day DH Giancarlo Stanton. In center field, Aaron Hicks is coming off a 27 home run season while the Yankees brought back veteran Brett Gardner for a 12th season in left. Prospect Clint Frazier, who has made his way back from concussion issues, is also in the pipeline as well.

Judge's wish likely



Aaron Judge wouldn't mind seeing the Yankees add another monster bat this offseason. GETTY IMAGES

won't come to fruition, though his comments have raised a few eyebrows.

During yet another MLB offseason that has dragged in terms of the signing of big-name free agents, Harper is still out there as one of the game's best players. While he was initially linked to the Yankees at the start of the offseason, interest has cooled to the point of dormancy over the past few months.

In the meantime, the Philadelphia Phillies have become the clear-cut favorites to sign Harper, who also recently met with the San Diego Padres.

The Yankees have been more involved in the Manny Machado sweepstakes instead, seeing as the 26-year-old All-Star infielder would be an immediate upgrade and replacement

for the recovering Didi Gregorius.

New York is considered one of the finalists for Machado, who also met with the Phillies and Chicago White Sox back in December. However, the market has not been to his liking as a report from Jon Heyman revealed that he is not happy with his current offers and he "may still have long-shot hopes for the preferred Yankees."

Along with Harper, Machado was expected to at least make around \$300 million on his new contract this winter, but the slow market has indicated that the former Baltimore Oriole and Los Angeles Dodger hasn't gotten anything near that. It is playing perfectly into the Yankees' hands, as they made it known that they are not going to blow the bank on Machado considering

they are already paying a monster contract in Stanton.

Heyman noted, though, that Machado going to the Yankees is "unlikely to happen now."

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LEGAL NOTICES

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS NOTICE OF SALE

Index N. 700021/2011

NAUM FRIEDMAN, Plaintiff,
- against -
YAKOV a/k/a JACOB FAYENSON, Defendant.
YAKOV a/k/a JACOB FAYENSON, Counterclaim-Plaintiff
- against -
NAUM FRIEDMAN AND EVEGNY FRIEDMAN
Counterclaim- Defendants

In the pursuance of Order and Judgment for partition, duly made and entered in the above-entitled action, dated November 30, 2018, Joseph Trotti, Esq., Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP, (516) 437 4385, the referee in said judgment named, will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Room 25, Jamaica, New York, County of Queens, New York, on March 8, 2019, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning of that day, the premises directed by said judgment to be sold and therein described as follows:

BEGINNING at the corner formed by the intersection of the northwesterly side of Roosevelt Avenue (66 feet wide) with the westerly side of 50th Street; running thence SOUTHWESTERLY along the northwesterly side of Roosevelt Avenue, 116.13 feet; thence NORTHERLY and parallel with the westerly side of 50th Street, 113.37 feet; thence EASTERLY and at right angles to the westerly side of 50th Street, 100.01 feet to the said westerly side of 50th Street; and thence SOUTHERLY along the westerly side of 50th Street, 54.34 feet to the corner aforesaid, the point or place of BEGINNING.

Together with all right, title and interest of the Plaintiff and Defendant in and to the land lying in the streets and roads in front of and adjoining said premises. Said premises known as and by the street number 49-13 Roosevelt Avenue, Woodside, New York, situated on Block 138 and Lot 60 on the land and tax map of the County of Queens in the State of New York.

Dated: January 25, 2019

VAL MANDEL, P.C.

40 Exchange Place, Suite 1203

New York, NY 10005

Attorney for Defendant and Counterclaim Plaintiff Jacob Fayenson
By: Daniel Akselrod

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a license, Number Pending, for Restaurant Wine has been applied for by the Undersigned to sell Wine, Beer & Cider at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcohol Beverage Control Law at 370 Columbus Ave., New York, NY 10024, New York County, for on premises consumption. HLD Columbus, LLC d/b/a Gari.

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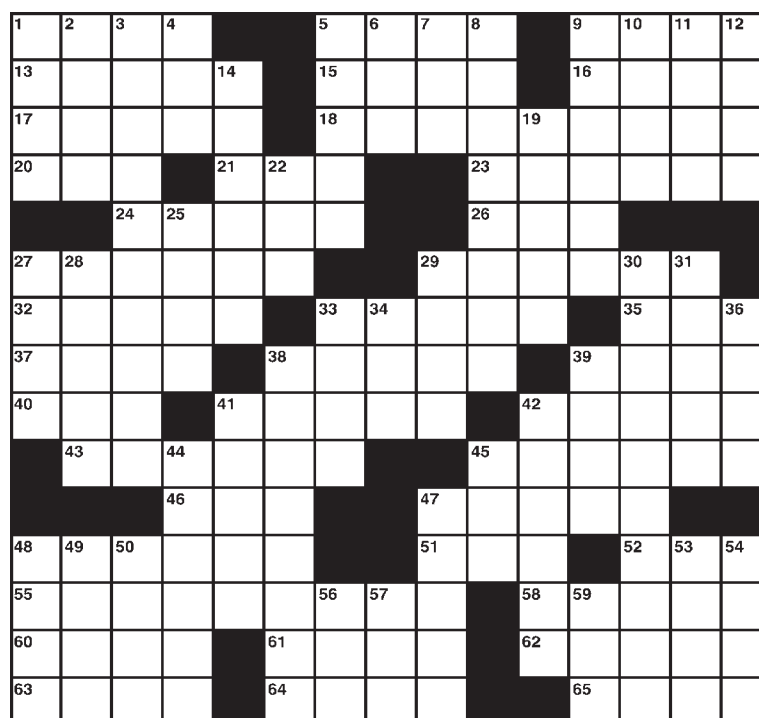
- 1 Applaud
5 American __; ND's state trees
9 Lunch spot
13 Skin-numbing injection
15 Hose problem
16 Call it __; quit and go home
17 Family tree member
18 Belittle; defame
20 Spelling contest
21 Female animal
23 Showy bird feathers
24 Underneath bunk
26 Daddies
27 Sports buildings
29 Madrid madame
32 Like permed hair
33 Pumpkin or cucumber
35 Deer's cousin
37 Waiter's item
38 Piles
39 Place to buy salami & rye
40 College football day: abbr.
41 Chairs & benches
42 Amarillo's state
43 More slender

- 45 Puts off
46 Ruby or scarlet
47 Kingdom
48 Inn
51 Ship letters
52 "Don't Think Twice, __
Alright"; Bob Dylan hit
55 Hobbies
58 Bert's buddy
60 Bambi, for one
61 Flue residue
62 Item in a bedding package
63 Catch sight of
64 Convince
65 Probability

DOWN

- 1 Black card
2 "The __ Ranger"
3 Speed up
4 Buddy
5 Father or grandfather
6 Gen. Robert E. __
7 "Nowhere __"; Beatles song
8 Boat captains
9 Tenor Enrico
10 First man
11 Destiny

- 12 Red __; night flights
14 Wiggle room
19 Thyroid or pituitary
22 Guitarist Montgomery
25 "I __ Have Eyes for You"
27 Play divisions
28 Not urban
29 Dines
30 Analyzed again
31 Ease, as another's fears
33 Equipment
34 Cereal grain
36 Bit of Hershey's chocolate
38 __ of; disregarding
39 "The Farmer in the __"
41 Look of contempt
42 Ribs
44 Blood vessel
45 __ Moines
47 Out of practice
48 Keep out of sight
49 Billfold items
50 Two __; ballroom dance
53 __ up; bound
54 Collections
56 Piglet's mom
57 __ T; exactly
59 Greek letter

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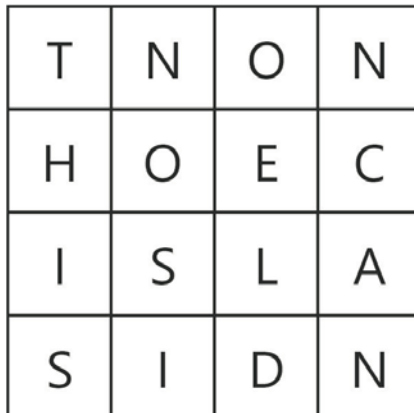
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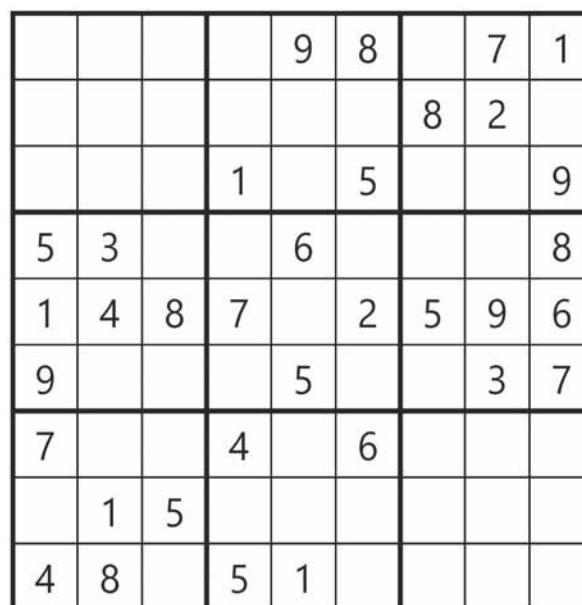
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